FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MARCH 1986

French Hostages in Lebanon

The Iranian agency IRNA accused France of preparing a military response to the taking of French hostages in Lebanon, claiming that French commandos are preparing for "an orgy of kidnapping" of Lebanese Hizballah officials. In Beirut, Shi'ite cleric Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah called for the release of the 4-man French television crew kidnapped 8 March, according to AFP, which described Fadlallah as Hizballah's "spiritual figurehead." As for the French diplomatic effort, Beirut's *AL-NAHAR* reported that France has authorized its envoys to agree to a deal involving the following conditions for the hostages' release: a French pledge to reduce the prison terms of the group that attempted to assassinate former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar in Paris; safeguards from Iraq concerning the lives of two Iraqi dissidents recently extradited from Paris to Baghdad; Syrian guarantees that France will honor its obligations if the hostages are released.

Israel

Tabah Talks — The Egyptian delegation has brought "positive answers" on the issue of normalization of relations, ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sason stated in remarks reported by IDF radio following the resumption of the Tabah talks in Herzliyya 12 March.

Policy on Syria — Commenting on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's current "extremism," Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stressed that Israel's response to threats will be to "fight back," adding that "our tone may be restrained but our might is great," Jerusalem radio reported. Peres also revealed that diplomatic efforts are underway, through France and the United States, to get Syria to permit its 4,000 Jews to emigrate, according to the radio.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian military communique cited by IRNA announced that Iranian planes raided an Iraqi command headquarters deep inside southern Iraq 12 March. Iraqi warplanes raided Khark Island the previous day, according to an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. As for aircraft losses, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA announced that Iraqi air defenses downed an Iranian F-4 over the Al-Faw area 11 March, while an Iranian communique reported by IRNA stated that an Iraqi helicopter was shot down in the same area.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti prime minister inspected military positions in Bubiyan Island and other north eastern border points, KUNA disclosed. In another development, Kuwait reminded Iran of its responsibility for any possible damage to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran, KUNA reported, noting that this followed demonstrations outside the embassy by Iranian students and trade unionists shouting "unjust slogans" criticizing Kuwait and other Arab Gulf states.

Iranian Relations With Romania

The Romanian foreign minister met with President 'Ali Khamene'i in Tehran 11 March, Tehran radio reported, adding that the minister gave Khamene'i a letter from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu emphasizing the possibility of expanding bilateral cooperation. Commenting on the Romanian delegation's visit, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told the radio that there is "a considerable degree of agreement" between the two countries on foreign relations issues.

Sudan

The clandestine Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) reported an appeal by the SPLA deputy leader for all civilians to evacuate towns in the war zone. He said the SPLA will protect civilians who flee to the rural areas, but warned that anyone who cooperates with the Khartoum regime will be dealt with according to the laws of "revolutionary struggle."

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Karmal Greets Mongolian Leader on Birthday

LD110631 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 10, BAKHTAR — It is a pleasure that the existing good and fraternal relations between the parties, states and peoples of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of Mongolia further develops and grows in the interest of peace, social progress and consolidation of the position of progressive forces of the world.

This is said in a mesage sent by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA to J. Batmonh, first secretary of the Central Committee of Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party on his 60th birthday.

The effective strides taken by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party for the progress of the country of the People's Republic of Mongolia and the warding off of the conspiracies of reaction, imperialism and hegemonism, are praised by all progressive forces of the world, the message says.

The message expresses wish for the further victories and successes of the Mongolian people under the leadership of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

Karmal, Delegation to CPSU Congress Return

LD090755 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0426 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 8, BAKHTAR: Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, who headed a high-delegation of the PDPA, to the 27th CPSU Congress in Moscow, returned home with his entourage.

The Afghan delegation was in Moscow at the invitation of the Central Committee of the CPSU, to participate in the 27th CPSU Congress.

Dost Continues Meetings With UN Special Envoy

LD111920 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Continuing of his talks from yesterday Minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Mohammad Dost met twice today in the morning and afternoon with Diego Cordovez at the Foreign Ministry.

According to another report, the minister of foreign affairs gave a dinner in honor of the envoy of the UN secretary general at 1830 in the Foreign Ministry reception hall.

A number of high ranking Foreign Ministry officials, members of Diego Cordovez's delegation, head of the UN Development Program in the DRA Samendo Banerjee, and a number of staff were at the dinner.

NFF Official Leads Delegation to Libyan Conference

LD111758 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Abdorrahim Hatef chairman of the DRA National Fatherland Front [NFF] Central Council, left today for Libya at the invitation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, at the head of a delegation of the DRA Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization. The delegation is to attend the conference of solidarity with the Libyan people against the aggression of imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism, which is to be held in Tripoli 15 March.

Feda Muhammad Dehneshin, first deputy chairman of the NFF Central Council; Satar Pordeli, chairman of the DRA Trade Union Central Council; secretary of the DRA Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization; deputy head of protocol at the Foreign Affairs Ministry; and Abdullah al-Huni, secretary to People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Kabul, were present at Kabul International Airport to see the Afghan delegation off.

Forces Launch 'Major Operation' in Panjshir

HK111204 Hong Kong AFP in English 1119 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Islamabad, March 11 (AFP) — Soviet-Afghan troops launched a major operation on rebel strongholds in the northern Panjshir Valley last week, Western diplomats reported here today.

The diplomats said the troops, including crack Soviet units, attempted to penetrate the valley from its lower reaches, encountering a mujahedeen caravan at Unaba. After two days bitter fighting "a number" of guerrillas were seized with their weapons.

The diplomats said Soviet jets bombed Unaba and looted village, [as received] adding that a number of Afghan soldiers were also killed in misdirected raids.

In the capital, Kabul, there were several rocket attacks last week, but diplomats had no details.

Air activity reportedly increased at Kabul airport because the situation had deteriorated in western Herat and southeastern Kandahar Provinces, where clashes spread into the towns, the diplomats said quoting a non-Western colleague in Kabul.

A traveller's account quoted by one Western diplomat said a Soviet force was sandwiched between mujahedeen and some 600 Afridi tribesmen "trained and instructed by the Soviets".

The Soviets had wanted to use the Afridis in fighting in Nazian, across the border from Pakistan, but the tribesmen "interested in money and weapons and not fighting" suggested the Russians should lead the operation. [sentence as received]

The Soviets, according to diplomats, found themselves trapped when the tribesmen opened fire on them and disappeared in the mountains, proabably crossing to Pakistan.

Other diplomatic sources did not confirm the report nor did resistance sources here.

Commentary on U.S. Attempts To 'Transform' UN Policy
LD110627 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 10, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The United States is striving to transform the policy of the United Nations Organisation (UNO) in the interest of Washington through political blackmail and does not refrain from anything to achieve this end.

The U.S. Department of State has resorted to another irresponsible action in order to jeopardize this reliable international organization and to diminish its world status. That is, it has asked a forty percent reduction in the number of Soviet diplomats in the UN Organisation.

Washington administration has adopted the decision at a time when the process of the normalisation of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States is in progress in the interest of peace and disarmament.

The talks held between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Ronald Reagan, president of the United States in Geneva, are an effort made by the Soviet Union for improving the relations between East and West.

The decision of Reagan administration is directed towards undermining the relations between the two countries. The U.S. Administration which finds the UN decisions to the detriment of its aggressive policies have resorted to various types of blackmails and sabotage against the UN Organisations. The United States is the first UN member country which withdrew from UNESCO.

UNESCO, being a branch of UN Organisation, follows an anti-imperialist policy in the interest of developing countries and is seeking to create a just and new international information and economic order for ensuring peace and security in the world.

These are all the reasons which prompted the United States to withdraw from the United Nations. [sentence as received]

Another hostile action by Washington administration is the imposition of restrictions on the movement of diplomats of the countries whose policies are not to the taste of Washington. This action of Reagan administration runs counter to the US agreement with the UN Organisation regarding the establishment of its headquarters in New York and is contemptuous to the UN Charter.

On September 15, 1985 and then on January 6, the U.S. Administration made another contemptuous decision asking some full-right [as received]members of the UN Organisation not to move further than 25 miles from the UN headquarters.

The adoption of such a position by the U.S. Administration is inconsistent to the UN Charter.

These [word indistinct] of the U.S. Administration has been denounced by the different countries of the world.

Spokesman Disputes Map Showing Island in India

BK100500 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry says all available (?charter) and their interpretation indicate that (Salfetty) Island rightfully belongs to Bangladesh. The matter has been under discussion with the Indian Government, and both sides are committed to a peaceful and negotiated settlement. Referring to a report in Dhaka daily regarding publication of a map by the Oxford University Press from New Delhi showing (Salfetty) as part of India, he asserted that it did not conform to the factual position. He regretted that such an error should have occurred in a map published by the Oxford University Press. The matter has been take up with the University Press.

Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Dhaka

Arrives in Dhaka

BK101702 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The Polish deputy minister for foreign affairs, Dr Jan Majenski, arrived in Dhaka today on a 4-day official visit to Bangladesh. Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport, he said his country's relations with Bangladesh are very good but he wants to improve them further. Trade relations between the two countries are also very satisfactory. The Polish minister said during his visit he will try to fill the gap that exists between the two countries in their economic and political relations. He indicated that Poland is interested to elevate its mission in Dhaka form the existing level of charge d'affaires to ambassadorial level.

Official talks between Bangladesh and Poland will be held in Dhaka tomorrow. The Bangladesh side at the talks will be headed by the foreign secretary, Mr Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury. During his stay, the Polish minister will call on Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Minister for Industries Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, and Commerce Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed.

Talks With Chowdhury

BK111431 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Poland will upgrade its mission in Dhaka from the existing charge d'affaires level to full ambassadorial level to increase bilateral economic and political contacts. The Polish intention to raise the level of the diplomatic representation in Bangladesh was conveyed by the visiting Polish deputy minister for foreign affairs, Dr Jan Majenski, in his formal talks with Foreign Secretary Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury in Dhaka today.

After the talks, the foreign secretary said the two sides had a satisfactory meeting that focused mainly on bilateral relation, with particular emphasis on economic cooperation. The two countries found trade relations between them satisfactory and could be further improved. The foreign secretary said during the talks, both sides briefed each other with their respective views and decisions on different international and regional issues, particularly the situation in Europe and the East-West relation. Bangladesh side noted with satisfaction Poland's interest in developing relations with the Third World as well as Bangladesh. Both the countries also decided to hold political consultations on a regular basis and make efforts to [word indistinct] bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

Earlier, the visiting Polish deputy foreign minister paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and discussed bilateral relations. The Polish minister extended an invitation to the foreign minister to visit Poland. The foreign minister accepted the invitation and the visit will be fixed at a mutually convenient date.

Facilities Given to Political Parties for Elections

BK111429 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The Bangladesh Government has decided to give certain facilities to those political parties which will put up at least 30 candidates in the forthcoming parliamentary election. The chairman or convenor and secretary general or secretary of such parties will get the facilities with effect from the scrutiny day [23 March] and will continue up to 7 days after the elections. Arrangements for publicity through radio and television will be made for such party officials. A telephone will be installed for the party, subject to availability of telecommunication facility. They will be issued a first class passenger pass in railway, a pass free of cost to travel by plane and a first class pass free of cost to travel by inland water transport. They will also be given free accommodation at circuit houses or government rest houses. A government transport with a driver will also be supplied.

Navy, Police Storm Vessels To Quell Sailors' Strike

HK100837 Hong Kong AFP in English 0815 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Dhaka, March 10 (AFP) — Bangladesh Navy and police personnel have stormed several state vessels and held at least two officers in a bid to quell a sailors' strike in the southeastern port of Chittagong, reports said Monday.

Following the breakdown of talks between the Bangladesh Shipping Corp. (BSC) and the Bangladesh Marine Officers' Association, the BSC ordered the sailors "to resume work or quit," then Navy and police personnel raided several vessels Sunday the reports said. At least 50 sailors were forced to leave their vessels, and the association president, Khairul Anam, and another officer were detained, the reports said.

Some reports said that in a similar raid at the southwestern port of Chalna at least 60 sailors were forced to remain in their cabins on three ships. More than 600 crew and officers of the state corporation began an indefinite strike for higher wages on March 1.

BSC sources said the authorities had arranged to replace the striking officers and crew with civilian mariners and Navy crew.

Security Forces Kill Pakistanis Crossing Border

HK120802 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 12 (AFP) — Indian border security forces have killed two people who attempted to cross over the border from Pakistan to the neighbouring Indian state of Punjab, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency said Wednesday.

The agency said the two were Pakistani nationals. They were killed in two separate incidents on Monday night and Tuesday morning.

PTI said that the deaths brought to four the number of Pakistanis killed by Indian security forces at the border since Saturday.

In one incident early Tuesday, the agency said, four Pakistani nationals were challenged by a border patrol in Punjab as they attempted to cross over into India.

PTI said that the trespassers opened fire and that the security forces replied killing one person. The others managed to escape, the agency added.

The agency gave no details about the other incidents.

Assam Protests Over Meghalaya Expulsion of Nepalese

HK071204 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Gauhati, India, March 7 (AFP) — India's Meghalaya State has expelled more than 5,000 Nepalese coal mine workers as unwanted foreign settlers in the past week, causing an interstate row, official sources said here Friday.

The Nepalese had worked for more than 20 years in privately-owned mines as cheap labour but had no papers to prove their citizenship, the sources said.

About 1,000 of the Nepalese arrived in this capital of Assam State in trucks escorted by Meghalaya police earlier this week and were later taken by the Assamese police to Srirampur, a border village in west Bengal State.

The rest were believed to have gone into hiding in Assam, the sources said.

The chief of police in Meghalaya, M.I.S. Aiyer, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone that "it was a standing government order to expel Nepalese who had entered Meghalaya without the restricted area permit (RAP)."

All foreigners entering northeast India have to obtain the RAP. Mr. Aiyer said, "We identified and verified 1,056 Nepalese without the RAP and 56 Bangladesh nationals without any valid documents in the collieries and expelled them from the state."

The expulsion has led to protests from the Assam government, which has its own foreign settler problem, and the joint action committee of all-Assam Nepali organisations, which looks after the interests of Nepalese in northeast India.

An Assam police spokesman said his government had not been consulted by the Meghalaya authorities. "Our attention was drawn to the expulsion after hundreds of displaced Nepalese workers suddenly started arriving in our state," he said.

Some of the Nepalese had to leave their wives and children behind as they were forced from the collieries and dumped into trucks, a spokesman for the joint action committee said.

The spokesman described the move as "inhuman" and said the committee had sent telegrams on the matter to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Home Minister S.B. Chavan. "We are also seeking help from the Nepalese Government," he said.

Danish Prince Henrik Arrives in Delhi 8 Mar

HK080736 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 7 (AFP) — Prince Henrik of Denmark arrived here Saturday for a six-day visit at the head of a Red Cross delegation.

The prince was welcomed on his arrival by the Danish Ambassador Kaj Bagoo, and the Chief of Protocol Salman Haider.

Prince Henrik is to study the work of the Red Cross in India and visit some hospitals, Danish sources said.

He is also scheduled to call on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Vice President R. Venkataraman durign his stay.

Antiterrorist Police Position Created in Punjab

BK110358 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, a new post of inspector general for crime and operation has been created to supervise and coordinate antiterrorist operations in the state and take effective and continous action for the maintenance of law and order. The (?sector) scheme — introduced in the border districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Ferozepore, and parts of Kapurthala and Hoshiarpur Districts recently — has also been put under his command.

Meanwhile, two unidentified gunmen shot at and seriously injured one person at a place near Phagwara last evening. The injured has been removed to a Ludhiana hospital.

Commentary on Timetable for Sri Lanka Solution

BK071415 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 7 Mar 86

[K. Dharamrajan commentary: "Sri Lanka — Time Is Running Out"]

[Text] Months have rolled by after bloody months. There has been no sign of a letup in the bitter violence in Sri Lanka. Fleeing what was once an isle of paradise, minority Tamils have taken refuge in neighboring south India, some 125,000 of them — no small number. A concern for India has been obvious, as it has

picked up what has become an inevitable mediatory role. Behind the quest for a peaceful political settlement is an earnest neighborly desire to create conditions to pave way for early return of the refugees in honor and safety. Indisputably, there is a clear sense of urgency in the situation.

Hence it was that India's external affairs minister, Mr Bali Ram Bhagat, warned the other day "time is fast running out." Will Colombo, to which the warning is directed, pay heed without dragging its feet? Thus is the big question. The question was posed again and yet again by agitated members in Indian Parliament. They had reasons to feel difficult [as heard], for President Jayewardene has rebuffed proposals by the Tamil United Liberation Front for a political settlement in their entity in recent time. It was in the aftermath of what New Delhi regarded as negative and rigid response of President Jayewardene that the Indian mediator, Mr Romesh Bhandari, postponed his scheduled Colombo visit early in February. Soon after, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi put the issue in the right perspective. He demanded that Sri Lanka should let him know whether India should continue with its good offices. This was read by Sri Lanka watchers to mean that Colombo should demonstrate its interest in political settlement in a constructive manner rather than seek a military solution while using Indian mediation to gain credibility.

Thereupon, in a formal statement to Sri Lankan Parliament, Mr Jayewardene spoke of his government's commitment to find "a peaceful solution within the concept of a unitary state." At the same time, he made it known he would not go beyond the means of a 6 months old working paper containing Colombo's proposals.

The new Jayewardene stance predictably evoked strong public reaction in India. Further, analysts linked what they termed Jayewardene's intransigent position on negotiations to a feeling on his part that the Tamil militants were losing out to his devastatingly equipped troops.

That, then, is the setting up for Mr Bhagat's warning that time is running out. In a policy that reflected India's strongest attitude yet [words indistinct] al: the external affairs minister said the action by the Sri Lanka security forces went beyond the realm of civlized behavior and had the elements of genocide. Calling it a breakdown of credibility on the part of the Sri Lanka Government, Mr Bhagat said Colombo professed peace on the one hand and pursued a military solution on the other. He backed up his condemnation of genocide with an assertion that India will raise the behavior of Sri Lanka's security forces before the UN Human Rights Commission, which is now in session in Geneva.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has said that the Sri Lanka Government has now come forward with a new paper or set of proposals and expressed the hope it will be a move forward. New Delhi's own new Sri Lanka policy was enunciated by Mr Bhagat when he told parliament that India is now for an action plan with a short timeframe of 1 month or so. The plan is to have three basic elements — independent inquiry into the killings of civilians, delegations of more powers to provincial councils, and maintenance of regional demographic proportions in the troubled island. This is part of India's well known policy of seeking a peaceful political settlement within a sovereign Sri Lanka.

President, Prime Minister Meet Omani Representative

BK101641 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The special representative of the sultan of Oman, Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad today and discussed matters of common interest with him, including bilateral relations. The president later hosted a luncheon in his honor.

The special representative also met with Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi and discussed recent developments in the region and bilateral relations. He conveyed a message of best wishes and goodwill from the sultan of Oman to the prime minister, who also asked him to convey his best wishes to Sultan Qabus.

Democratic Party Official on Direct Talks With DRA

GF121003 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Mar 86 p 8

[Bureau report]

[Excerpts] Peshawar, March 6 — The National Democratic Party's [NDP] Pakhtunkhwa President, Muhammad Afzal Khan has demanded immediate recognition of the DRA regime in Afghanistan and holding of direct talks with Kabul to resolve the Afghan issue.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday after chairing the party's provincial Working Committee meeting, he said Pakistan must adopt an independent foreign policy to reduce the risks to the country's security. To achieve this end, Afzal Khan said the first move should be to improve relations with our neighbours, especially India, Afghanistan and Soviet Union. He alleged that Pakistan's external relations options were circumscribed due to American influences. The NDP leader said the dangerous game being played on the Pakhtun soil could only bring misery and destruction for the people living here. He said the masses needed peace in order to progress and prosper.

The NDP leader described the situation in Gadoon-Amzai area as explosive and urged the Government not to use force to stop the people from opium cultivation. He said it was a national problem and the growers were justified in demanding alternative sources of income in return for a ban on opium cultivation. Afzal Khan asked the rulers to solve the issue in a peaceful manner and to refrain from making mistakes like the ones it committed in Mardan and in Khyber Agency as it had to concede defeat on both these occasions.

Editorial on Indian Aid to Afghanistan Forces

GF111344 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 7 Mar 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Indian Aid for Karmal Forces"]

[Text] During a press interview which included foreign correspondents, a high-ranking leader of the "Hizb-e Eslami Afghanistan" Party, His Excellency Golboddin Hekmatiar, affirmed that India has aided the Soviet-established Karmal regime in Afghanistan. Elaborating on his response, he stated that India has trained Karmal forces not only in Afghanistan, but in India as well. He indicated that Indian military advisers are working in the wireless centers at Qandahar, Jalalabad, and Gardeys to help the Soviet command, the Afghanistan intelligence service "KHAD," and the Karmal forces in transmitting their messages. Moreover the mines being planted in the roads used by the Afghan mujahidin have also been supplied by India.

This statement of His Excellency Hekmatiar is not a new revelation nor was it a surprise to anyone when he said that in view of India's hostile attitude he did not expect any good from the Indian side. He said that the freedom-loving world, particularly the Nonaligned Movement, should take notice of such an attitude. In the nonaligned foreign ministers' meetings held in Delhi, which was followed by the nonaligned summit, several resolutions were passed (with the general agreement of India) concerning the situation in Afghanistan. Similarly a huge majority in the UN General Assembly every year passes similar resolutions on the question of Afghanistan. However, India openly violates them without the least hesitation. Afghanistan is not only an ancient, independent, and sovereign Muslim country, which has traditionally remained nonaligned, but it is also counted among the founders of the Nonaligned Movement. Of course, it is not a secret that India, despite its claims of being nonaligned, is counted among the lackeys and the servile followers of the Soviet Union.

The United Nations, the ICO, and Nonaligned Movement should end their connivance now that His Excellency Hekmatiar has revealed the extent to which the Indian regime cooperates with the Karmal Government. When the problem of Afghanistan is debated in the UN General Assembly, India abstains in the voting to show the world that it is a nonaligned country, but when it expresses its general agreement on the resolutions passed by the nonaligned foreign ministers and in the nonaligned summits, its open support for the Karmal regime established by the invading Soviet forces, amounts to hypocrisy. This should not be tolerated.

Former Afghan King Speaks on Future of Country

GF111122 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 9 Mar 86 p 1, 8

[Text] London, 7 Mar (Afghan agency) — The former ruler of Afghanistan, Muhammad Zahir Shah, said that the fate of Pakistan and Afghanistan is the same, and that gain and loss is the same; the territorial integrity of Pakistan has a deep influence on the independence of Afghanistan. In an interview in Rome where he is in exile, he said that to safeguard their religion, way of life, and homeland there is nothing for Afghans except armed resistance. He said that the Afghan people will continue to resist until they get their independence and completely wipe out the Soviet aggression. He added that the Soviets have completely misunderstood the Afghan people who will not accept anything except their complete independence. Responding to a question on the indirect talks held under UN auspices, he said that the real parties to the problem are the mujahidin and the Soviet Union and neither is directly present at the talks.

Asked about his own future, he said he has no plans to return to Afghanistan as king. He is totally devoted to the Afghanistan crusade. A similar statement in the past was wrongly intepreted. He is therefore very cautious now as to what he says. He will not say anything until the Afghan mujahidin ask him to. If the Afghan mujahidin ask him to assist them, he would willingly. He stressed that he does not want to become a king or a ruler of Afghanistan, and for this reason he is silent now so that he is not misunderstood again and thus harm the Afghanistan crusade. Praising the current unity among the Afghan mujahidin he said: This is a "participation coalition," and can lead to a complete union. He said that victory of the crusade depended on complete unity. Without complete unity, the Afghan resistance cannot reach the final stages of victory.

Praising the sympathy shown by the Afghan people during the resistance, King Zahir Shah said: Pakistani people have another bright example in the history of the Muslim nation. The way they and the Government of Pakistan have given refuge to the 3 million war-stricken and Soviet oppressed Afghan women, children, and old men will be remembered until the end of the world. The endless sacrifices offered by the people and the Government of Pakistan have strengthened the religious and historical relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. This will have a positive effect on the future history of the region.

King Zahir Shah applauded the interest of the Islamic countries in the Afghanistan crusade and also the efforts made in the international level to end the Soviet aggression. He added that the Muslim countries should always be ready to strive for the independence of Afghanistan. If, he said, the Afghan resistance fails in the end, it will bring along with it a dismal era of servitude for the Islamic world and this time the era will be worse than the past one.

Students Burn U.S. Flag, Protest Gulf Support for Iraq

LD111628 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — University students and workers marched under rain in Tehran Tuesday to protest Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabia's support of the Iraqi war effort and called for revolutionary measures against the two Persian Gulf countries.

The protestors, including a large number of women gathered in front of the U.S. spy den (embassy) where they burnt the American flag and listened to a militant Majlis deputy.

The Islamic Republic has recently voiced grave concern over the political and military support of several Persian Gulf states for the Iraqi war machine.

Reports say Kuwait and Saudi Arabia sell oil on behalf of Iraq, and allow the use of their ports for the unloading of Iraqi bound military hardware.

The two countries recently issued a communique calling for a political solution to the imposed Iraqi war and asked Iran to pull back its troops from Iraqi soil.

Deputy Hadi Ghafari said "I had called on the organizers to turn the demo towards the Kuwaiti and Saudi Embassies" but one organizer said they decided to hold the meeting in front of the former embassy after consultations.

Ghafari said "rulers of the region should not play with fire. They understand no diplomacy nor political activity. We must speak to them in their own language".

Amid chants of "Saddam commits crimes, for Fahd and Kuwait to support" and eight point statement was issued calling for revolutionary measures against the two countries.

The statement called on Iran's military combatants to confiscate oil tankers in the Persian Gulf that carry oil sold on behalf of the Iraqi regime.

The students said the oil wells of the region would be put at risk by the revolutionaries of those countries if their governments continue to cooperate with the Islamic Republic's five-year-old war enemy.

Ghafari made an explicit statement that Iran had a different policy towards other Persian Gulf countries. "We must make distinction between the sheikhs of the Persian Gulf. The policy of the United Arab Emirates is different from that of Kuwait. We must accept this".

A group of protestors who were covering their heads apparently to hide their identification said they were from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain.

Similar demonstrations were held in northwestern city of Tabriz where the students called on the Foreign Ministry to take action against what they called "the plots of the agents of world arrogance" a reference to the superpowers.

The Tehran gathering was organized by the powerful Islamic Association of Students and the Workers House, a central organization of factory workers councils.

French Commandos Said Preparing 'Orgy of Kidnapping'

LD111830 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran March 11, IRNA — In an effort to combat the Islamic resistance movement in Lebanon, French commandos are said to be gearing up for an orgy of kidnapping of officials of the Lebanese Hizballah Party.

Radio France monitored here in its Tuesday's broadcast intimated that another method of state terrorism on the part of the Paris government in violation of Lebanese sovereignty was the 'bombardment of military training centers' of the Islamic Jihad organization, which happens to be a national liberation organization defending their homeland.

A western news agency bureau in Beirut recently received pictures of French hostage, Michel Seurat who is said to have been executed.

No visible wounds were apparent on his body, however, and there is hope against hope that he is still alive, the broadcast noted.

Meanwhile, Iran has denied a French envoy a visa to the country on the ground that the French hostage issue does not concern it.

Further on Romanian Foreign Minister's Visit

Meets President Khamene'i

LD111848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The Romanian minister of foreign affairs, now visiting Tehran at the head of a political delegation, met with President Khamene'i today. During the meeting, the Romanian foreign minister, conveyed warmest greetings from Nicolae Ceausescu, president of Romania, and handed our president a written message from Ceausescu emphasizing the possibility of expanding Iranian-Romanian cooperation. The message also contained an official invitation to Mr Khamene'i to pay a friendly visit to Romania.

Referring to the profound changes in Iran following the victory of the Islamic revolution, which have prepared the conditions for expanding bilateral relations between the two countries, he then conveyed to Mr Khamene'i President Ceausescu's anxiety about the current world situation, the arms race between the superpowers, the increasing dangers of a nuclear war, and the securing of the independence and freedom of nations without interference from foreign countries. He emphasized the need for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and for that country's independence and the Afghan people's right to self-determination.

Then Mr Khamene'i, expressing thanks and welcoming the renewed invitation from President Nicolae Ceausescu to visit

that country, expressed hope that he will be able to visit Romania at an appropriate opportunity in the future. Expressing the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to expand cooperation and bilateral relations between Iran and Romania, the president referred to the expansion of these relations following the victory of the Islamic revolution. He emphasized the fact that the danger of the arms race by the superpowers, the pressure on Third World countries by the hegemonists, and interference in the affairs of other countries by foreign forces are also the foreign policy concerns of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Iran supports the positions adopted by the Romanian president. He said: Anything that helps to achieve rights is a mandatory and practical task in our foreign policy. It is for this very reason that we consider the problem of Palestine as one of the world problems which should be considered. The world should pay attention to the problem of the deportation and homelessness of the wronged Palestine nation by a usurping government and should work toward realizing the rights of the Palestinians! The Zionist government is a usurping one and should be driven away from the occupied territories of Palestine!

Condemning the big powers supporting South Africa's oppressive apartheid system, Mr Khamene'i added: everywhere in the world, from Latin America to Africa to Asia, signs of oppression by the big world powers can be seen. It is extremely appropriate that in such situations the stands adopted by those countries that dare and have the courage to proclaim their decisive stands should draw closer. Indeed, the expansion of economic relations will only be possible and fruitful if they are to advance parallel with political relations.

In conclusion, Mr Khamene'i referred to the war imposed on Iran by the Iraqi regime and certain countries' unrealistic approach in not condemning the Iraqi regime. He added: What can one expect of a nation that has been subjected to such grievous acts of aggression by its enemy? The aggressor Iraqi regime should have been condemned long ago by the world. If certain world countries had not encouraged the Iraqi Ba'thist regime to continue its aggression against Iran and had they condemned it for its aggression, this war would never have reached the present stage and would have ended by now.

Velayati Comments on Talks

LD111858 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati with unidentified correspondent; date and place not specified — recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Velayati, will you please tell us what the main issues were that you discussed with the Romanian delegation, and how do you see the two countries' future relations?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Relations between Iran and the Socialist Republic of Romania have been expanding, particularly after the revolution. The volume of our trade with Romania has, on average, increased fourfold. During this period, various delegations have visited each other's countries at various levels. This present visit is the second visit by a foreign minister from the Socialist Republic of Romania to Tehran. It has been agreed that Mr Zanjani will shortly visit Bucharest as the Iranian representative on the Iran-Romania joint commission.

During our talks, we had relatively lengthy discussions on bilateral relations and international issues. After expressing opinions, it became clear that a considerable degree of agreement exists between us and Romania in foreign relations; and when each side had a particular opinion on certain points, it was expressed explicitly. We declared our stand with regard to the imposed war and our motives and justification for continuing the war until the collapse of the aggressive Iraqi regime. We also specified our position on Afghanistan and Palestine. Of course, Romania has in recent weeks officially objected to the Iraqi bombing of Iran's residential areas and this was a very positive and friendly step by Romania. In general, we evaluate this trip as a very positive one.

Comments on Talks

LD111952 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania, who visited our country at the head of a political delegation, left Tehran after a send-off from Foreign Minister Velayati.

Before departing from Tehran the Romanian minister of foreign affairs gave an interview to our correspondent and described the visit as highly desirable. He added: My official visit to Tehran followed an invitation from Mr Velayati, Iran's minister of foreign affairs. During the visit, we talked with Iranian officials on many problems connected with bilateral relations and certain extremely important international problems. In accordance with my mission, during my meeting this morning with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, I handed him a message from President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania, on expanding relations between the two countries' governments and nations.

The Romanian minister of foreign affairs added: During the talks, which were held in connection with expanding political, economic, and cultural relations and other areas of interest, the two sides expressed their resolve to continue consistent efforts to expand relations in all fields. He added: During these talks many ways and possibilities for expanding bilateral relations were found and it was decided that an Iranian economic delegation should visit Bucharest in the coming month. We will try decisively and seriously to reach agreements on increasing the volume [as heard] of bilateral relations during the visit of the Iranian delegation.

The Romanian foreign minister described the visit as fruitful and said: During our meeting with the Iranian foreign minister, in addition to certain problems related to bilateral relations, talks were also held in connection with certain international problems. The positions of the two sides were identical or extremely close in many instances. Within the context of world problems it was decided during these talks that the two countries' cooperation

with the developing countries and the nonaligned countries, and also in confronting imperialist policies, fighting the policy of hegemony and domination, and the policy of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries should be expanded.

In conclusion he said: During my meeting with Mr Velayati I invited him to pay an official visit to Bucharest. He accepted the invitation and it was decided that it visit should take place at an appropriate time.

Economic Minister Iravani Visits Yugoslavia

Oil Agreement Signed

LD071459 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Belgrade, March 7, IRNA — Yugoslavia is to import one to 1.5 million tons of oil from Iran in 1986. The agreement was signed at the end of a meeting of the Irano-Yugoslavia Economic Cooperation Committee in Belgrade Thursday night.

The two countries did not agree on the new oil prices because Iran has refused to change OPEC-agreed oil prices and put off any decision on its oil prices until the next meeting of oil ministers of OPEC member countries.

A Yugoslav oil delegation is to follow up the talks on the prices in Tehran in the future, moreover, Iran has agreed to export non-oil commodities to Yugoslavia comprising as much as 20 percent of her total imports from that country.

Before signing the agreement, visiting Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani in his meetings with Yugoslavian officials discussed Tehran-Belgrade economic and political relations and ways to promote them.

The Iraqi-imposed war and issues of the next summit meet of the Non-Aligned Movement member countries were among other topics discussed at the meetings.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Raif Dizdarevic in his meeting with the Iranian minister invited his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati to pay a visit to Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, Majlis Deputy Qasim Sadaqini who is accompanying Iravani met with the head of Foreign Economic Relations Committee of Yugoslavia's Federal Assembly here Thursday. At the meeting Sadaqini explained Iran's stance in the Iraqi-imposed war and the Iraqi shooting down of an Iranian passenger plane last month.

Returns to Tehran

LF080645 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Mr Irvani, minister of economic affairs and finances, led a high-ranking economic delegation to Belgrade to attend the joint economic commission held there between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Yugoslavia and returned to Tehran last night.

[Begin Irvani recording] Concerning commerce and the committee on trade, which deals with issues related to petroleum, banking, and commerce, the export of products other than oil was stressed. This is a very good point. It was decided that 20 percent of the Yugoslavian imports from Iran would be goods other than oil.

Concerning the issue of exports, marketing, and research, it was decided that a delegation would go from Iran to Yugoslavia within 3 months.

As far as the issue of the oil is concerned, it has been agreed that Yugoslavia would buy 1.5 million tons of oil from Iran next year.

Generally we can say that this letter of understanding, which was signed in a friendly atmosphere, has special attributes. It pays a great deal of attention to realizing the working aspects of the subjects of the letter. The letter of understanding was drafted with attention to this.

As I said, it stresses the export of goods other than oil. It also puts a good deal of stress on tehcnical and industrial cooperation.

In addition, we explained our foreign trade policy for next year to them. Various aspects were discussed in the meeting of the trade committee with the government and civilian commerce officials of Yugoslavia. Necessary recommendations concerning the operations of bilateral commercial cooperation were made.

Another point is that they were told that they could import goods from Iran before exporting goods to Iran. That is to say, Iranian importers can first export goods before importing. Then, in exchange, import goods equivalent to the value of the exports. [sentence as heard]

In general, the discussions were carried out in a very friendly atmosphere. The Yugoslav president, foreign minister, and all other officials stressed the expansion of economic cooperation, as well as the general relations between the two countries. I consider the trip to be very positive. Thank you.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you very much. [End recording]

Foreign Under Secretary Departs for Turkey

LD091759 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Besharati, our country's Foreign Ministry under secretary, left for Turkey, today, at the head of a Majlis and Foreign Ministry delegation, bearing a written message from President Khamene'i to the Turkish president.

During the trip, the Iranian delegation will discuss the regional situation with Turkish officials.

Libyan Envoy Reiterates Support in War

LD101016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Our correspondent reports that 'Abdallah Fadil, Libyan ambassador to our country, reiterated Libyan's support and backing for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the imposed war. He announced: We condemn the Ba'thist Iraqi regime's aggression on the Islamic Republic of Iran and stand alongside our Iranian brothers on the same front until our common enemy, the infidel Saddam, is toppled.

The Libyan ambassador was speaking in a ceremony held in the Valli 'Asr suburb of Tehran where crowds of people, struggling clergy, guards, mobilization force officials, and the speaker of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq were present. He said that we warn the reactionary countries of the region who cooperate with Saddam and stress that they should not play with fire. Very soon Saddam's regime will be toppled and the Islamic revolution will become victorious in Iraq. He further added that we support the recent attack by the combatants of Islam to liberate the Iraqi soil. This war will continue until the Ba'thist enemy is toppled and the nation of Iraq is freed from the menace of the oppressive Saddam.

The Libyan ambassador then referred to the conspiracies hatched by America and Zionism in Lebanon and Libya and said that the United States will never have any place in our land. We will fight the plots of world arrogance until the last minute. We will not submit to oppression from the United States, France, or Israel. Fadil finally emphasized the need for the continuation of struggle by Muslim countries against world arrogance and Zionism and praised the struggles of Egyptian Muslims. He said that God willing, Mubarak will soon leave Egypt and the Muslim country of Egypt will be free from the presence of this servant of oppression. Then Muslim countries will join forces to liberate Palestine.

Majlis Passes Budget Bill for New Year

LD111856 Tehran IRNA in English 1731 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — The Majlis (parliament) Tuesday passed the budget bill with a two third majority after giving it a 200 billion rial (dls. 2.4 b) increase. The increase includes higher spending on development projects and current expenditure including a 26 billion rial (dls. 320 m) jump for the military and its related projects.

Other increases include a 17 billion rial increase for the steel industry and a 4.2 billion increase for the organization of nuclear energy.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi had presented the budget to Majlis on December 1st. The proposed budget had stood at 7,247 billion rials (dls. 89 b).

Council of Experts that supervises the implementation of the Constitution and the legality of Majlis bills is expected to give its vote of approval to the budget within the next few days making it the law of the land.

Ministry of budget and plan will publish the full details of the budget to the media after the final approval.

But the passing of the 40 articles of the budget was not without opposition. During the 2.5 month debate over 500 changes were suggested of which some 100 were approved.

Speaking in opposition to the increases, the spokesman for the Budget Committee said that neither the committee nor the government could defend the increase.

The press voiced an independent view over the issue. The afternoon *RESALAT* said the increase was inflationary and would pressure the lower classes.

Writing the editorial in *RESALAT*, the former minister of labour, Ahmad Tavakoli suggested an austerity policy. "Preparing the nation to continue the (imposed Iraqi) war under any circumstances is more realistic rather than increasing expectations" he said.

Government of Hoseyn Musavi has envisioned a 15 billion dollar income from its oil sales while non-oil income is expected to stand at around 300 million dollars. Most of the non-oil exports are carried out by the private sector and is not included in the state budget.

Construction on Oil Jetties in Gulf Completed

LD121021 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Province, March 12, IRNA — Construction work of jetties and oil platforms in the Persian Gulf has been completed and they will become operational beginning the next year (starting March 21), said Musa Khayyer, who is in charge of the Oil Ministry projects, here Tuesday.

Khayyer, Currently here to inspect the process of the projects in Bandar-e 'Abbas, told IRNA that the projects were innovative and have taken experts in jetty construction by surprise.

More on the jetties he said that Westerners had announced that Iran could built jetties only in 12 locations of the Persian Gulf. However, under the unique and advanced system employed by the Iranian experts, he added, several jetties could be built simultaneously along the coastal line and in a short period of time.

The new technique, Khayyer said, which is highly efficient and superior to similar methods, will enable Iran to compete those [as received] countries which had so far monopolised jetty building.

Giving more details on the jetties Khayyer said that it could be installed in a time period less than what is used in techniques employed by Japan. The Islamic Republic of Iran, he added, is willing to present the advanced technique to the world and assist the oppressed nations to become self-sufficient in this respect. Due to the needs of the province, he added, eleven more of the oil jetties will be implemented.

SAIRI Holds Seminar, Forms 'Fajr Army'

LD120838 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — The "Fajr" seminar of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), held to find ways of mobilising the Iraqi volunteers, ended here Tuesday.

At the end of the one-day seminar which was attended by a large number of political and religious personalities of SAIRI, a resolution was issued which stressed the importance of leadership of Imam Khomeyni. It also called for the overthrow of the Iraqi ruler and establishment of an Islamic Republic in Iraq.

Further in the resolution it was stated that in reply to the call of the Iraqi people, especially those in Iran, for the participation in the campaign against the Iraqi ruler, the Fajr army was formed.

It also urged all Iraqi military personnel to point their guns at the Iraqi ruler and join the ranks of the Iraqi mujahideen.

The resolution called on the imperialist powers and the reactionary regimes of the region to stop supporting the Iraqi regime, otherwise they will have to bear the responsibility for the consequences.

Finally the resolution pledged support for the Islamic liberation movements in Lebanon, Afghanistan, Egypt, and throughout the Islamic world.

Iraq Reportedly Increases Threats Against Kuwait

LD071453 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Paris, March 7, IRNA — The Baghdad Government has recently stepped up its threats against Kuwait in a bid to force the Kuwaiti Government to accept its illegitimate requests, according to a French reporter who has recently returned from Kuwait.

The reporter said that following the fall of the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw in recent Iranian offensive, the Iraqi regime has escalated its threats against Kuwait's water border and territory. The intensified pressure is said to be a cause of grave concern to Kuwaiti businessmen.

A heightened feeling of insecurity among Kuwaiti businessmen over the past few days has caused them to contemplate withdrawing their capital from Iraq, the reporter said.

He said rumors had recently circulated in Kuwait that newly-installed artillery units of Kuwait in Bubiyan Island had been attacked by Iraqi troops.

Escalation of Iraqi threats against the Kuwaiti territory is an indication of the frustration of Iraqi military commanders in their failure to recapture Al-Faw from Iranian forces, the reporter concluded.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Positions Bombed

LD111110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] According to reports from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center of the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the fast-flying eagles of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran together with other powerful combatants of the Islamic corps, carried out a series of operations at 0630 today. They bombed the positions of the defeated enemy forces along the (Al-Bihar)road on the Al-Faw-Basra axis. Our forces set fire to several depots of armored equipment belonging to the criminal Saddamists and tens of concentration points of the Iraqi forces and destroyed them.

During these operations the enemy's formation and engineering activities were completely disrupted, and a large number of their forces in this region were either killed or wounded.

'Val-Fajr-9' Communique No 9

LD111217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Communique No 9 on "Val-Fajr-9" operations issued by Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters on 11 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O brave nation of Islam, O combative and self-sacrificing nation of Iran: The heroic defenders and anti-pagan fighters of the Islamic revolution continued their jihad against the Ba'thist, Zionist regime of Saddam and created sagas and outstanding and fateful victories in the proud history of the imposed war. The victorious operation "Val-Fajr" was another example from this holy jihad, which once again manifested the glory of the efforts the self-sacrificing forces of monotheism in defense of dear Islam, the Islamic revolution and our God-seeking nation.

With the stationing of the forces of Islam in the occupied positions, we inform you of the shining results of the victorious operation.

While repeating the holy call: Ya Allah, Ya Allah, Ya Allah, during three stages of the operation staged north and east of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, the combatants of Islam crossed obstacles; fortifications; difficult mountainous conditions; snow-covered heights; and the Zab al-Saghir, Gogasur, and Banabur Rivers. They were stationed in the sector northeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah after staging their operation 40 km inside the province. In full control of the sector, they liberated more than 350 sq km from the filthy presence of the Ba'thists.

The brave combatants of Islam also liberated more than 80 villages and districts and the sensitive and strategic heights in the region, namely 28 snow-covered heights in Al-Sulaymaniyah in Iraq. The brave combatants raised the proud flag of dear Islam on the peaks.

The self-sacrificing forces of Islam were stationed on the heights overlooking several Iraqi towns and completely surrounded Chuwartah. In control of Chuwartah-Al-Sulaymaniyah road, they were stationed 18 km from Al-Sulaymaniyah.

During the proud operation, the God-seeking combatants of Islam also captured and destroyed more than 65 operational bases and completely destroyed the defeated Iraqi forces. With the complete destruction of more than five commando and infantry battalions of the enemy and heavy casualties inflicted on other enemy forces in the sector, namely the capture of the command base of the 504th Brigade and the bases of its three subordinate battalions, the forces of Islam killed or injured more than 2,500 enemy troops and captured 210, during the "Val-Fajr-9" operation. There were several Iraqi officers and NCO's among the dead and POW's.

During the "Val-Fajr-9" operation the combatants of Islam captured 10 tanks, 30 large ammunition and supply stores, more than 40 vehicles, 10 heavy engineering vehicles and trailers, a radio equipment store and a telephone exchange, 10 106-mm guns with full equipment and 40 assorted mortars, and destroyed more than 11 tanks, 200 light and heavy vehicles, and several large ammunition dumps and motor pools in the enemy armored concentration center.

The heroic combatants of the Islamic revolution also destroyed more than 50 percent of Iraq's Chuwartah garrison and all of Sitak garrison. They liberated the (Musakan), (Bare-i Pichuk) and Susakan posts. During the operation, an enemy aircraft was shot down in the sector.

At present, the forces of Islam are in full control of the sector and are defending their captured positions. By crushing any enemy movement, they are dealing more fatal blows to the enemy. With God's help victory and glad tidings to the faithful are nigh.

[signed] Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, center of the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Communique No 2406

LD111621 Tehran IRNA in English 1528 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — Communique Number 2406 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that Iranian Muslim combatants in addition to inflicting casualties and losses on Iraqi forces in the western fronts Monday, killed or wounded at least 20 Iraqi troops.

The communique published Tuesday also says that exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim forces and Iraqi troops continued throughout the fronts Monday with effective hits silencing Iraqi artillery and inflicting substantial casualties and damage on them in the northwestern fronts.

In Marivan, the communique says, Iranian Muslim combatants are continuing their tactical pressure on Iraqi troops.

The southern fronts was the scene of artillery exchanges between Islamic combatants and Iraqi forces with Iranian patrols conducting reconnaissance activities and fortification of their positions, says the Joint Staff.

The Joint Staff communique says that Iranian Muslim troops completely checked combat, engineering and aerial operations of Iraqi forces as well as the movements of their full-track vehicle columns throughout the fronts over the past 24 hours. They also severely restricted enemy operations.

Meanwhile, the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province sustained minor casualties as it was hit by sporadic artillery fire of Iraqi forces Monday.

Iraqi Helicopter Downed

LD111759 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Khatam-ol-Anbiya' headquarters, March 11, IRNA — Iranian ground to-air fire shot down an Iraqi helicopter which was on a mission against their positions in Val-Fajr-8 operational theater Tuesday, according to a military communique published by Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters.

The headquarters said that Iran's figher bombers bombed Iraqi positions on Al-Bihar road, along the Al-Faw-Basra axis at 6:30 and again at 14:30 hours Tuesday, killing or wounding a large number of Iraqi troops.

Scores of group bunkers and several of their armoured hardware parks were destroyed in the attacks, the headquarters concluded.

Iraqi Command Headquarters Raided

LD121059 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Al-Faw, March 12, IRNA — The Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a successful mission at the operational theater of the Val-Fajr-8 offensive, raided the command headquarters of the Iraqi forces south of Munu Island deep inside Iraq, early on Wednesday, said the Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ in its latest statement.

In this operation a number of Iraqi officers and a large group of Iraqi forces were killed and several enemy motor parks for heavy and light vehicles and armoured munitions were set on fire.

The statement described the damages and casualties inflicted on the Iraqi forces as "irreparable".